

Saints revenge chance

CHALFONT St Peter, who excelled by reaching last year's Berks and Bucks Senior Cup final, where they lost 2-0 to Wycombe Wanderers, have a chance for revenge in this season's competition.

In the second round draw made on Saturday, Saints have been given ground advantage against Wycombe, who must once again travel away from Loakes Park. The match will be played at the Playing Fields on Saturday, November 18.

Another Isthmian versus Athenian League battle pits Slough against local rivals Burnham. But this time it is the Isthmian side Slough who are at home. Burnham, therefore have a stiff task if they are to reach the second round for the first time in six years.

Wycombe League champions Holmer Green, who overcame Spartan Leaguers Amersham Town 2-0 on Saturday, have little reward for that giant-killing act. They must travel to meet Isthmian newcomers Hungerford Town.

Another local team having to journey are Flackwell Heath, 1-0 victors over Spital Sports. They are away to Buckingham Town.

Full draw: Maidenhead Utd v Maidenhead Town, Slough T v Burnham, Windsor & Eton v Aylesbury Utd, Buckingham T v Flackwell Hth, Hungerford v Holmer Grn, Bracknell v Milton Keynes, Chalfont St Peter v Wycombe Wanderers, Wolverton T or Abingdon T v Newbury Town.

THERE comes the turning point for every club during the season and Wycombe's arrived on Tuesday night when they pulled back from a 1-2 deficit to beat Hayes in a five goal thriller at Loakes Park.

Wycombe started the march in an undistinguished eighth place and had they lost or even drawn they could have been condemned to a hard struggle to catch the leaders with already one third of their matches behind them.

So when they trailed just after half-time, it was the moment of truth for a Wycombe side that has been notable only for its inconsistent performances, from game to game and even during the same match.

Wycombe fought their way out of that particular hole and emerged from the encounter with three points, which puts them in a bunch just behind pacemakers Croydon and the inevitable Enfield.

A home defeat against such a mediocre side as Hayes would have been a disastrous result for Blues, who can now look forward to the rest of the season, with renewed confidence, especially as they are back to full strength.

Howard Kennedy returned after a month's absence with a groin injury, and although naturally fading towards the end of the contest, showed enough invention to bode well for the future.

HARDWICK LATE

He replaced the workmanlike John Priestley, while the only other change saw Keith Mead come in for Steve Hardwick, who arrived too late to be considered for selection.

Mead's return, with his reassuring and powerful headers seemed to inspire his partner Alan Phillips to give one of his best performances of the season. However Mead's lack of speed on the turn compared with Hardwick was soon evident.

The Wycombe defence had virtually nothing to do in a one-sided first half, after which Wycombe should have been leading by three clear goals.

Instead they had to be satisfied with a splendid 26th minute score by Steve Long. Paul Birdseye's cross into the area was cleared straight to the feet of Long who sent back a first time left foot shot from 15 yards that beat the off-balance Alan Jarrett.

Splendid chances fell to Dylan Evans and Kennedy to increase the margin as Wycombe, with a

firm defensive authority pushed men forward. They were hampered to some extent by Hayes niggling tactics which brought bookings for Alan Carrington and Laurie Craker.

Indeed Carrington was lucky not to have been sent off following a second bad foul just before the interval.

These aggressive tactics were hindering rather than helping Hayes and when they decided to concentrate on football in the second half, the result was devastating — with two goals in 15 minutes.

Mick McGovern, the former QPR and Swindon player, moved forward into mid-field to great effect and he had a major

hand in Hayes' equaliser in the 53rd minute.

He and corpulent Garry Gilbert, produced a series of one-tuos down the centre of the field, which completely bemused the home defence. McGovern was just about to shoot for goal, when Birdseye's toe-poke tackle sent the ball trickling past the stranded John Maskell.

Hayes snatched the lead on the hour following a dazzling run by coloured teenager Ron Nelson. Coming in off the left wing he beat three defenders before firing a powerful shot straight at John Maskell. The goalkeeper could not hold on to the ball and Gilbert tucked away the rebound.

This was a black moment for Wycombe, who nearly conceded another goal when Bobby Wiles had a shot blocked on the line.

The one goal deficit left a chink of light for Wycombe who equalised in the 69th minute. Bobby Davies crossed from the left with his right foot and Long guided his header through the narrow gap between Jarrett and the right hand post.

Play switched to the other end and only the linesman's flag for off-side prevented Nelson regaining the visitors the lead. This was a sign that the luck was swinging Wycombe's way and they snatched a great winner in the 74th minute.

Mick Holifield's corner from the right was met with a perfect header by Phillips, who sent the ball into the far corner and then proceeded to dance round the field as though he had just scored the winner in the FA Cup Final. At the end of the season it could prove to have been just as important.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell, P. Birdseye, R. Davies, K. Mead, A. Phillips, D. Allanson, S. Atkins, M. Holifield, D. Evans, H. Kennedy, S. Long, Sub: L. Reid (not used).

Hayes: A. Jarrett, A. Carrington, V. Akers, I. Craker, R. Leathers, M. McGovern, R. Nelson, B. Wiles (sub G. Battell 84 mins), T. Brown, G. Gilbert, D. Yerby.

Referee: A. D. Cox (Buckhurst Hill). **Half time** 1-0. **Scorers:** Wycombe — Long (26 mins, 69), Phillips (74); Hayes — Birdseye og (53), Gilbert (60).

Wycombe Wanderers 3, Hayes 2 Report by MICHAEL KNOX

SOMETHING TO PROVE

HITCHIN'S young manager Nicky Beach has a special reason for wanting his side to beat Wycombe Wanderers in their Berger Isthmian League match at Loakes Park tomorrow (Saturday).

Beach, at 26 the youngest manager in the league, will come face to face with Blues boss Andy Williams the man he succeeded at Top Field. It will only be natural if he wants to prove himself against Williams, who was highly regarded at Hitchin.

Eyebrows were raised when Beach, assistant to Keith Molton at Chalfont St Peter, was appointed to that prestigious post. But since his arrival Hitchin have continued the improvement they started under Williams.

Only three players left Hitchin during the change over. Terry Scott came to Wycombe while Peter Watson and Kevin Mulkern joined Boreham Wood.

In their place Beach has brought two former Chalfont players, experienced mid-field player Ken Woolnough and striker Garry Harthill. Harthill, the leading scorer, is likely to miss the match with a groin strain.

They join another former Saint in mid-field man Bobby Carroll.

Wycombe, who hope to name a full strength side for the first

time this season now that Stewart Atkins and Howard Kennedy are fit, must win all their home games if they are to stay in touch.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croydon	12	9	0	3	26	14	27
Enfield	14	8	2	4	20	12	26
Hendon	14	7	4	3	22	19	25
Wycombe	14	7	3	4	24	14	24
Leatherhead	13	7	2	4	23	11	23
Dulwich	12	6	5	1	15	6	23
Hitchin	13	7	2	4	21	17	23
Walthamstow	13	7	1	5	22	14	22
Barking	11	6	3	2	29	19	21
Woking	13	5	5	3	23	20	20
Dagenham	14	6	2	5	15	15	20
Boreham Wd	13	5	4	4	18	14	19
Tooting	14	5	3	6	16	18	18
Slough	11	5	2	4	10	10	17
Hayes	12	3	5	4	16	21	14
Oxford	11	4	2	5	16	23	14
Staines	13	3	3	7	14	23	12
Kingston	12	2	3	7	9	20	9
Sutton	13	2	2	9	12	23	8
Tilbury	12	2	1	9	12	31	7
Carshalton	11	0	6	5	9	18	6
Leytonstone	12	1	2	9	8	20	5